

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2004/000475

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER																						
Int. Cl. 7: C22B 3/04, 3/14, 23/00																						
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																						
B. FIELDS SEARCHED																						
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)																						
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched																						
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI: C22B 3/04, 3/14, 23/00 & KEYWORDS: nickel, cobalt, reduc+, sulphid+, sulfid+																						
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																						
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																				
X	US 4927794 A (MARCANTONIO) 22 May 1990 Whole document	1-3																				
A	EP 0651062 B (QUEENSLAND NICKEL PTY LTD) 30 December 1998 Whole document	1-32																				
A	CA 2256560 A (CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIONES PARA LA INDUSTRIA MINERO-METALURGICA) 27 August 1998 Whole document	1-32																				
A	US 4322390 A (TOLLEY ET AL) 30 March 1982 Whole document	1-32																				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex																				
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table> <tr> <td>"A"</td> <td>document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T"</td> <td>later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E"</td> <td>earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L"</td> <td>document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y"</td> <td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O"</td> <td>document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&"</td> <td>document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P"</td> <td>document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family	"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family																			
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed																					
Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 May 2004		Date of mailing of the international search report 24 MAY 2004																				
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer THARU FERNANDO Telephone No : (02) 6283 2486																				

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6383460 B (JONES) 7 May 2002 Whole document	1-32
A	US 6267800 B (FREEMAN) 31 July 2001 Whole document	1-32
A	US 6264904 B (FREEMAN) 24 July 2001 Whole document	1-32
A	Derwent Accession No. 94-222418/27. Class M25. JP 06158186 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORP) 7 June 1994. & JP 06158186 Abstract	1-32
A	Derwent Accession No. 94-174076/21. Class M25. JP 06116662 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORP) 26 April 1994. & JP 06116662 Abstract	1-32

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000475

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member					
US	4927794	EP	0209272	JP	62003024	US	5066469
EP	0651062	AU	77522/94	CA	2134490	US	5605668
		US	6048506	ZA	9408497		
CA	2256560	AU	59804/98	EP	0918094	US	6524367
		WO	9837247				
US	4322390	NONE					
US	6383460	AU	12701/95	AU	34996/99	AU	34997/99
		AU	42960/96	AU	44766/96	AU	58889/96
		BA	95051	BG	101726	BG	102132
		BG	102133	BG	102149	BR	9408639
		BR	9608483	BR	9608499	BR	9608624
		CA	2099333	CA	2221781	CA	2221930
		CA	2221940	CA	2356048	CA	2356050
		CN	1186523	CN	1186524	CN	1187220
		CZ	9701849	EP	0804624	EP	0832302
		EP	0832303	EP	0832306	EP	0924307
		EP	0930373	FI	972663	FI	974427
		FI	974428	HR	950601	ID	29555
		NO	972836	NO	975707	OA	10643
		PL	320939	PL	323593	PL	323782
		PL	323799	TR	970069	US	5431788
		US	5645708	US	5650057	US	5855858
		US	5869012	US	5874055	US	5902474
		US	6054105	US	2002012621	WO	9619593
		WO	9641026	WO	9641027	WO	9641029
		ZA	9410363	ZA	9510710	ZA	9604866
US	6267800	NONE					
US	6264904	NONE					
JP	6158186	NONE					
JP	6116662	NONE					

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

END OF ANNEX